



BS/CT/WG/R(2002)1

**REPORT OF THE
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON COOPERATION IN TOURISM**

Istanbul, PERMIS premises, 5-6 March 2002

1. The Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism was held at the PERMIS premises in Istanbul, on 5-6 March 2002.
 2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Andriy KONONENKO, Director, Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.
 3. The Meeting was attended by the following Member States of the BSEC:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
 4. The representatives of PABSEC and BSEC Business Council also participated in the Meeting.
 5. The representatives of Egypt, Italy and Poland attended the Meeting in the capacity of Observers.
 6. A representative of the Black Sea Tourism Cooperation (BSTC) was also present at the Meeting.
- The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.
7. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

DISCUSSIONS ON THE BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA. WIDENING OF THE PRACTICE OF ORGANIZING THE EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM IN BSEC

8. The participants held discussion on the paragraphs of the BSEC Economic Agenda concerning cooperation in the field of tourism and agreed, in principle, to follow the guidance of this important document.

9. Being informed by the Greek and Turkish delegations of the training and educational programs organized during the periods of 1999-2001 and 2000-2001 respectively, the participants positively assessed the training courses and discussed practical ways of enhancing effectiveness of such events. Particularly in this connection they underlined the language and background requirements to be met by the participants in the future.

10. The Republic of Turkey proposed to host an international course on eco-tourism during the last week of May 2002 with the participation of two persons from each Member State, as well as two study tours and students' exchange programs between Turkey and Greece.

11. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic offered to organize a Seminar on training of trainers for 3 persons from each BSEC Member State and on-the-job training (summer 2002 and summer 2003) in the field of tourism for the BSEC Member States.

12. The delegation of Armenia proposed the organization of one-day tourist trips among BSEC neighboring countries.

13. The Working Group decided to update the Tourism Action Plan prepared by the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Turkey and discussed during the previous Meeting of the Working Group.

14. To this end, the participants discussed an outline of the Tourism Action Plan prepared by the BSEC PERMIS and agreed that the document will be composed of the following main parts:

- general provisions
- main directions for cooperation
- priority fields of activities
- elaboration of "BSEC corporate tourist product"
- operational part: specific tasks for the period 2002-2004

15. The Working Group asked the BSEC PERMIS to summarize the proposals expressed by the delegations in the course of the Meeting and elaborate on this basis the draft Action Plan to be circulated within 10 days to the Ministries, so that the Member States could submit their possible contributions to the Secretariat by 15 April 2002.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) BETWEEN BSEC PERMIS AND WTO EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER IN ISTANBUL

16. The delegations considered and agreed upon the proposal of concluding the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the BSEC PERMIS and the WTO Education and Training Center in Boğaziçi University, Istanbul.

17. The participants considered the draft Memorandum of Understanding and introduced several amendments to it. The draft Memorandum, as approved by the Working Group, is attached as Annex III.

18. It was decided that the draft document will be presented to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM FAIRS AND BSEC FAIRS

19. The Working Group took note of the information of national delegations on the tourism events to be held in their respective countries and emphasized that these may serve as a possibility for attracting investments from BSEC Member States as well as from third Parties.

20. The participants took note of the proposal of the Ukrainian delegation to organize a joint BSEC stand at the 8th Ukrainian International Travel and Tourism Exhibition to be held in Kyiv on 3-6 April 2002.

21. The participants showed their special interest for participation in the international tourism events to be organized in 2002. The list of the respective fairs and seminars on tourism is attached as Annex IV.

WORKSHOP ON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CO-ORGANIZED BY THE BSEC BUSINESS COUNCIL, OECD AND KAF

22. The representative of the BSEC Business Council informed the Meeting of the outcome of the Workshop organized in cooperation with OECD and KAF. Three major priorities emerged from this Workshop:

a) The necessary conditions for tourism development in the region is the existence of an enabling business environment, beneficial to the local entrepreneurs and attractive to foreign investors;

b) Strategic marketing planning should be applied at every step of tourism development process;

c) Good environmental practices and sustainability should guide every action for the development of tourism in the region.

23. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC Business Council and was of the opinion that contribution of the BSEC Business Council will give a positive impact to the cooperation in the field of Tourism.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. No issues have been raised under this agenda item.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

25. The delegations expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Turkey for the kind contribution to the organization of the Working Group in Istanbul.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

26. The Working Group requested the forthcoming Albanian Chairmanship to include in its Calendar of events the Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism, aimed at finalization of the draft Tourism Action Plan, to be scheduled for the second half of 2002.

27. The participants also welcomed the proposal of the Hellenic Republic to host the next Meeting of the Working Group on Tourism in the second half of 2003.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

28. The Report was adopted for submission to the Committee of Senior Officials prior to the Sixth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
